

Patient Bill of Rights/ Patient's Responsibilities

Your Rights as a Patient

The New York State Department of Health has prepared a booklet, "Your Rights as a Hospital Patient," which is included in the rear pocket of this Guide. Please review the information included in the booklet. Patient rights are also available in other languages, please ask your nurse who can assist you.

Your Responsibilities as a Patient

While the law has given you many rights as a patient, we would like you to understand that you have a few responsibilities as a patient, too. Please read through the following seven provisions in order to make your stay more medically productive and more pleasant.

A Patient is Responsible:

1. to provide, to the best of his/her knowledge, accurate and complete information about present complaints, past illnesses, hospitalizations, medications, and other matters relating to health. He/she has the responsibility to report unexpected changes in his/her condition to the responsible practitioner. Patients and families must report perceived risks in their care. They can help the hospital understand their environment by providing feedback about service needs and expectations.
2. to ask questions. Patients and families, as appropriate, must ask questions when they do not understand their care, treatment, and service or what they are expected to do.
3. for following the treatment plan recommended by the practitioner primarily responsible for his/her care. This may include following the instructions of nurses and allied health personnel as they carry out the coordinated plan of care and implement the responsible practitioner's orders, and as they enforce the applicable hospital rules and regulations. The patient is responsible for keeping appointments and, when unable to do so for any reason, for notifying the responsible practitioner or the hospital.
4. for his/her actions if he/she refuses treatment or does not follow the practitioner's instructions.
5. for assuring that the financial obligations of health care are fulfilled as promptly as possible.
6. for following the hospital rules and regulations affecting patient care and conduct.
7. for being considerate of the rights of other patients and hospital personnel and for assisting in the control of noise and the number of visitors. The patient is responsible for being respectful of the property of other persons and of the hospital.



Your Role in Patient Safety

Be an educated and active member of your treatment team by asking questions about your treatment, paying attention to your care and sharing any concerns or issues you may have with our health care professionals.

We encourage you to speak up and remind all staff and visitors to wash their hands before and after all contact with you. Please show your identification bracelet to all staff to assist them in verifying you are the intended recipient before they perform any test, treatment or procedure on you and before you are given any medication. Please speak up and let our staff know if we are not providing you with a medication or treatment that you routinely receive at home. Please provide our staff with a list of medications that you take when you are home including the dosage and the times that you take your medications. Please do not take your own medications while in the Hospital unless you are directed to do so by your nurse and physician and you take the medications under their supervision. To prevent a fall, please use your call bell to request assistance before getting out of bed. Please always wear appropriate non-slip footwear when you are out of bed.

Patient Responsibilities, *continued*

We want to partner with you and your family to provide you with a safe stay. Please immediately notify your nurse or the Nurse Manager or the Patient Representative if you identify a situation or practice that you feel may be unsafe in our Hospital. We welcome your input.

Honoring Patient Advance Directives

Mount Sinai South Nassau acknowledges a patient's right to create an advance directive. Every patient admitted to the Hospital is afforded the opportunity to create an advance directive (i.e. Health Care Proxy, Living Will, etc.) to the extent they desire such a directive. Patients will be provided with access to, assistance with, and information about, the development of such a document if they request it. The execution of an advance directive is strictly voluntary and the provision of care will not be contingent upon the presence of an advance directive.

The philosophy of Mount Sinai South Nassau regarding the withholding/withdrawing of treatment is to respect the right of the patient (or the patient's legally designated representative) to make any and all decisions affecting the

care and treatment of the patient within the boundaries of applicable State and Federal laws and regulation.

An individual physician may refuse to honor a patient's advance directive if the request is contrary to the physician's moral or religious beliefs. The physician will assist the patient in obtaining a new physician if unable to comply with the patient's wishes.

The Hospital will not withhold artificial nutrition and/or hydration from a patient unless the patient's wishes concerning the withholding of artificial nutrition/hydration are reasonably known. It is recommended that the patient express his or her views on this issue in writing.

Any concerns a patient, or legally designated representative, may have with the implementation of an advance directive may be referred to a member of the Hospital's Ethics Committee. Additional information, or how to create an advance directive may be obtained by calling the Social Work Department at extension 3925 or a member of our Geriatric Palliative Care team at extension 4200.



The Hospital Honors Six Types of Advance Directives:

1. Health Care Proxy properly executed in accordance with New York State law.
2. Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) decisions made in accordance with New York State law.
3. Oral wishes that are expressed by a patient in a clear and convincing manner.
4. Living Wills as recognized by New York State law.
5. An advance directive executed in another State or jurisdiction which is in compliance with the law of that State or jurisdiction.
6. Medical Orders of Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST).